ERI -SAN
I'M VERY SORRY!!

I WAS SELFISH AND DIDN'T THINK ABOUT HOW YOU FELT...
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT
AND I WON'T YELL ANY MORE
SO PLEASE, ERI-SAN!!

LET'S PRACTICE TOGETHER AGAIN!!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE YELLING, AI-CHAN!
SCHOOL CROSSING

STEP 9

大きな一歩

5 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY FALLING OUT WITH ERI-SAN
SINCE THEN, SHE HASN'T EVEN SHOWN HER FACE FOR LESSONS.

RATHER, SHE HASN'T EVEN LOOKED ME IN THEY EYE...
ERI-SA...
ばーん
ビービー
BUT OUR SHOW-DOWN WITH HOSHI! MIKI IS RAPIDLY AP-PROACHING

GOT IT, AI-CHAN?
AS FAR AS ERI-SAN IS CONCERNED, YOUR SHOUTING IS JUST AS SCARY AS BEING BITTEN BY A CAR-CHARODONTO-SAURUS.
SO IF YOU DON'T LOWER YOUR VOLUME, SHE WON'T BE IN ANY CONDITION TO TALK TO YOU.
UGH. I KNOW THAT BUT...

AH,
YES!
HIDAKA-SAN, IT'S ALMOST TIME SO PLEASE GET READY!
I PRACTICED MY APOLOGY SO MUCH I'M ALREADY TIRED...
THE MORE EMOTIONAL I AM, THE LOUDER MY VOICE GETS.
IF YOU GIVE IN NOW, YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY, YEAH?
SIGH...
CHIN UP, AI-CHAN!
TODAY'S MUSIC FESTIVAL IS OUTDOORS AND THE STADIUM IS PACKED.
I'LL SING AT FULL POWER UNTIL I FORGET ABOUT IT
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT I'M UPSET
THAT'S RIGHT...
たー!!

WOW. HIDAKA-SAN IS EVEN MORE ENERGETIC TODAY!
Y... YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

EVERY-BODY
THANKS FOR COMING TODAY!!

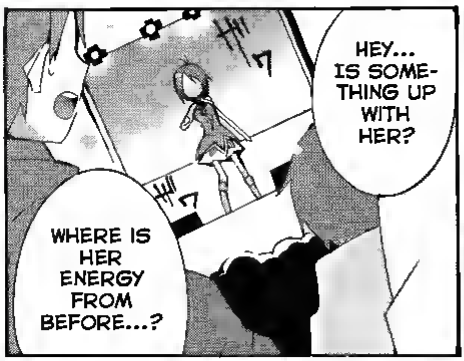
I GET THE FEELING THAT SHE'S BEING A LITTLE RECK-LESS BUT...
SHE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT...?

HERE, HAVE A DRINK.
NICE WORK, HIDAKA-SAN!
TODAY WAS GREAT TOO.

しょりばば
THANK YOU...
TH...
BUT MY TURN ON STAGE IS OVER FOR TODAY, SO IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL
HUH?
WOAH!
A... ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO COLLAPSE FROM EXHAUSTION, ARE YOU?
I JUST WENT AT IT TOO HARD SO I'M ALREADY SPENT
COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HIDAKA-SAN!
YOU'RE STILL SINGING TWO SONGS IN THE SECOND HALF, RIGHT!?
ズズ!
OH AM I? TWO SONGS WILL BE A PROBLEM..
I'M ALREADY REALLY..

ガラ!
!?
!?
WHAAAAAAAAAAAAAA?!
WAIT
OH NO... I MUST HAVE SPACED OUT.
DAMN IT, I WAS SURE I ONLY HAD TO PERFORM IN THE FIRST HALF...!
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
TWO MORE SONGS!?
TWO OF THEM!?
ERRR, I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT THIS MORNING.
OH. YEAH! IT'S OKAY! I CAN DO IT!!
IT'S ALMOST TIME SO...
UM... WILL IT BE OKAY?

UGH...I KNEW I COULDN'T...
THERE'S NO WAY I HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT FOR TWO SONGS!
!
BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO GIVE UP.
ALL I CAN DO IS GET THROUGH THIS SOME-HOW!!
AI-CHAAAAN
わあ



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SAY "HELLO!!"
!!?
E... ERI-SA...!?
I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD
SO CATCH YOUR BREATH IN BETWEEN?

ERI-SAN
NO... MORE IMPOR-TANTLY
W... WHY IS ERI-SAN!
IS ABLE TO PROJECT HER VOICE NOW!

WHAAAA
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU CALLED ERI-SAN AND SHE CAME HERE ON PURPOSE!?
わー
わー
I GUESS I WAS BEING NOSY.
YEAH... I COULD TELL FROM THE START THAT YOU WERE FEELING OFF SO SHE HURRIED HERE JUST IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENED.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU SAVED ME!
HII
UM... SERIOUSLY,
THANK YOU, ERI-SAN.

AND I'M SORRY.

.....
I SCREAMED AT YOU ABOUT IT...
YOU GAVE ME SO MUCH ADVICE AND YET

I KNEW IT WAS BOTHERING YOU
BUT I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY THAT I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD DO SO I RAN AWAY...
YOU DIDN'T... DO ANY-THING WRONG?
YOU JUST TOLD ME YOUR PER-SPECTIVE.

BUT WHEN YOU GOT ON STAGE ALL OF A SUDDEN
WITHOUT ANY PLANNING, SINGING AS HARD AS YOU COULD AND LETTING IT HAPPEN NATURALLY...
I MEAN, IF WE FOCUS ON ENCOURAGEMENT INSTEAD OF PUSHING OUR METHODS ON EACH OTHER,
I THINK WE ONLY NEED A LITTLE MORE PRACTICE UNTIL WE CAN STAND UP TO HOSHII-SAN.
ERI-SAN...
SO HOW ABOUT...
WE TRAIN TOGETHER...?
O... OF COURSE!!

I KNOW...
WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN THIS!!
YAHOO! IT'S YOU AGAIN!
I'M SURPRISED YOU TWO ARE IN THIS AUDITION TOO!

EEK, A MONSTROUS IDOL HAS APPEARED!!!
WOW, I'VE NEVER HEARD A COMPLIMENT LIKE THAT BEFORE☆
SORRY BUT I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU.
I'M NOT GIVING UP FIRST PLACE!
THA... THAT'S MY LINE.
I... I WON'T LOSE.
HOSHII MIKI-SAN.
OH, IT'S MY TURN!
SEE YOU ☆
むむむ
SHE'S JUST AS COMFORT-ABLE AS EVER...
HOSHII MIKI IS AMAZING...!!

AI-CHAN.
ARE YOU GETTING... NERVOUS?
UGH. ANYONE WOULD BE WITH HOSHII MIKI SINGING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.
WANT ME TO TEACH YOU A TRICK TO NOT BEING NERVOUS?
OH, I KNOW THAT ONE. YOU WRITE ON YOUR PALM AND...
NOT THAT.
REMIND YOURSELF OF WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT AFTER THE AUDITION IS OVER!
AHAHA
REALLY? WHAT'S WITH THAT-

IT'LL BE OKAY, ERI-SAN.
IT'S ALL YOURS, HIDAKA AI-SAN.
NEXT UP, ENTRY #17.
THANKS FOR HAVING ME!!
I KNOW I CAN DO IT.

TODAY WE AIM
FOR OUR VERY OWN STORY
JASRAC 出1101921-101
LET'S START A BRAND NEW TOUCH
SAY "HELLO!!"

COME! LET'S SHOW OUR SMILES.
TO MAKE TOMORROW INTO THE FUTURE WE WANT!
SURELY
WE'LL BECOME STRONGER THAN BEFORE!
HUH...

THE STAGE SEEMS SMALLER THAN USUAL...
WHAT'S THIS?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S JUST
MY MOVEMENTS ARE REACH-ING FURTHER

I'M CONSCIOUS OF THE SPOTLIGHT'S POSITION WHEN I MOVE.
MY VOICE IS COMING OUT LOUD AND GENTLE WITHOUT ANY STRAINING
AND-
I HAVEN'T LOST PASSION OR ENERGY
BOOKS DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS,
WE'RE IN A WORLD WHERE NOT EVERYTHING'S CORRECT

SOMEDAY, I WANT TO SEE IT, I WANT TO CATCH IT...
I'VE BEEN REBORN!!
THE LIGHT CONTINUES STRAIGHT AHEAD!

TODAY, WE DRAW OUR OWN BRAND NEW STAGE!
IT'LL BECOME OUR DREAM... OUR LOVE!
LOOK! IT'LL DEFINITELY BECOME IT!

I'M SHOWING OFF EVERYTHING I WORKED WITH ERI-SAN TO LEARN.
AT THIS RATE... IT'S SETTLED!!

WE AIM FOR OUR VERY OWN STORY!!
LET'S START A BRAND NEW TOUCH
SAY "HELLO!!"

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パチパチ
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NO WAY...
パチ
パチ
THAT WAS FANTASTIC!
INCREDIBLE, AI-CHAN... A PERFECT PERFORMANCE?
TH-
THANK YOUUUUUUUUU!!

ERI-
SA...!!
※
AFTER
IMAGE